

“CAN YOU LOSE YOUR SALVATION?”

Part 1: The Truth About Hebrews 6

HEB. 6:4-6

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

Falling Away In Hebrews 6?

A. Context:

1. Hebrews is written to assemblies of Jewish believers. The purpose of the letter is to show them the folly of returning to the old sacrifices and customs after Jesus has fulfilled them.

C. Follow the Pronouns from v. 1-9: The writer consistently uses “we” and “you” to denote the faithful believers in Christ. He uses “they” and “them” for those who have only been nominal believers

D. Define the Terms

1. once enlightened - They have been given the knowledge of the truth
2. Tasted the heavenly gift - Mentally or emotionally experienced the truth of the fulfillment of the promises.
3. Made partakers of the Holy Ghost - “having become companions with the Holy Ghost” - This is talking about coming along side the Holy Spirits work. The word “partaker” should be translated “companion” or “partner” when the object is personal. (The Holy Spirit is a person not a thing)
4. Tasted the good word of God - They heard the true gospel
5. Tasted the powers of the world to come - this is speaking of the new age of the gospel (Aeon = age)
6. If they fall away - Fall away from what? They are going back into the Old Testament system rather than holding to the New Testament gospel.
7. Impossible to renew them again to repentance - Repentance means turning away. What did they turn away from? The answer is in verse 1. “Repentance from dead works” They were returning to the old ways. They could not be renewed because there is never going to be another Messiah or salvation from God.

E. Follow the Argument

1. The author then gives a short parable showing the difference between those who receive the gospel producing fruit and those who don’t
2. Then he says, “But, beloved, we are persuaded better thus speak.” (v. 9). Notice that the things that he has said previously are not the things that “accompany salvation.” The things that accompany salvation are “better.”



HEBREWS 3:14

For we are made partakers of Christ;
if we hold the beginning of our
 confidence stedfast unto the end;

PAY ATTENTION TO THE VERB TENSES

*What is this verse
actually saying?*

Don't Assume - Examine

There are quite a few passages like Hebrews 3:14, which seem to say that being saved is dependent upon how well we perform. Many people take these passages to mean that man must maintain his salvation by constant obedience.

1. For we are made partakers of Christ
 - a. "are made" in this verse is perfect tense which indicates a completed action in the past with continuing results.
 - b. This speaks of what "are" right now.
 - c. Notice it says, "We **ARE** made partakers.."
2. If we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;
 - a. This seems like a condition of salvation doesn't it.
 - b. Pay attention to what the verse is actually saying
 - c. If we hold...is called a subjunctive clause. That's a fancy word but it just means what "may" happen in the future.
 - d. Our holding fast until the end is pushed into the future.
 - e. So the verse is NOT saying we **WILL BE** partakers with Christ if we hold fast.
 - f. It is saying we **ARE** partakers with Christ if we hold fast
3. **THEREFORE:** holding fast is not the condition of being a partaker...it is the evidence of it.

4. You **ARE** (right now) if you hold fast (in the future.)

Other verses are also misinterpreted this way:

"But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house **are we, if we hold fast** the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." - Hebrews 3:6

- notice here again, We already are his house if we hold fast in the future. Holding fast is the evidence of what we already are.

"By which also **ye are saved, if ye keep in memory** what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." - 1 Co. 15:2

"If ye continue in my word, then **are ye** my disciples indeed;" - John 8:31



WHAT ABOUT WARNING PASSAGES?

A. There are many passages in Scripture which warn believers not to err from the truth, or apostatize from the faith. Many say, “why would there be a warning if it were impossible to lose our salvation.”

B. ANSWER: The passages warning against apostasy serve two primary purposes.

First, they exhort true believers to make sure of their “calling and election.” Paul tells us in [2 Corinthians 13:5](#) to examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith. If true believers are fruit-bearing followers of Jesus Christ, then we should be able to see the evidence of salvation. Christians bear fruit in varying degrees based on their level of obedience and their spiritual gifts, but all Christians bear fruit; and we should see the evidence of that upon self-examination.

The second reason for the passages on apostasy is to point out apostates so that we may recognize them. An apostate is someone who abandons his religious faith. It is clear from the Bible that apostates are people who made professions of faith in Jesus Christ, but never genuinely received Him as Savior.



For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins - Hebrews 10:26

This chapter compares Christ to the sacrifices of the Old Testament priests. The book of

Hebrews is exhorting Jewish believers not to go back to the Old Testament shadows now that Christ has come.

The “sacrifice” pictured in Hebrews 10:26 is the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament priests. Now that Christ has come and we have seen the salvation of God, if we willfully sin after receiving knowledge of this truth, there is no animal sacrifice that can be offered for sin.

No sacrifice remains except that of Christ.

Kept by God

The Bible teaches the security of the believer

I. Hebrews 10:14 - **“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”**

- A. In context, this verse is showing the difference between Jesus’ ministry of offering Himself as a sacrifice and the Old Testament priests who had to continually offer their sacrifices year after year.
- B. Notice what the verse is saying, by a single offering (Himself) He [Jesus] has perfected (a Greek perfect tense verb, meaning completed action in the past with continuing results).
- C. Notice how long He has perfected them - “for ever”
- D. The ones who have been perfected are “them that are sanctified” (Present tense in Greek, meaning those who are being sanctified)

II. John 6:37-40 - **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of *all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*”**

- A. Notice how the argument flows.
 - 1. Those who come to Christ are given by the Father
 - 2. Christ loses none that come to Him
 - 3. Those who believe on him will be raise up at the last day.
 - 4. These verses leave no room for any view other than eternal security
 - 5. Everyone who believes in Jesus is raised up on the last day

III. John 10:27-28 - **“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”**

- A. No man can remove His sheep from His hand
 - B. This means that the person can’t remove himself (If he is human, he is also a man)
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IV. Phil. 1:6 - “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”

- A. The one who began the work (i.e. salvation) will complete it
- B. He will continue to perform the work “until” the day of Jesus

V. John 5:24 - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

- A. There is no way Jesus could make such a statement if one’s salvation depended on anything in himself.
- B. Notice that Jesus says the believer already possesses everlasting life
- C. What does “everlasting” mean? Shouldn’t he have said “hopefully everlasting?”
- D. How can Jesus be sure that believers “shall not come into condemnation” if eternal security is false?

VI. John 3:36 - “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

- A. The one believing already has everlasting life

VII. 1 John 2:1-2 - “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous And he is the propitiation for our sins:”

- A. What exactly does the “Advocate” do if we lose our salvation every time we sin?
- B. Which sins is he the propitiation for if we are still accountable for them?